

Messages for managers

Oversight and effective supervision can:

- encourage critical, reflective practice
- provide emotional support
- Support effective inter-agency working.

Challenges and good practice

Professionals need to be aware of the risks of:

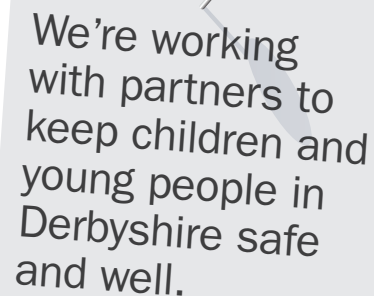
- having unrealistic or overly optimistic expectations of improvement
- not seeing teenagers as children – particularly in cases of sexual exploitation
- young people who put themselves in harm's way still needing our protection
- case drift – particularly when dealing with neglect.

Professionals can help themselves by:

- being confident in escalating any concerns to senior management
- using the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) as a multi-agency framework in providing early help
- ensuring there is appropriate representation at key meetings, e.g. case conferences, when children are at risk
- reflecting on practice in light of learning from reviews.

Learning from serious case and incident reviews

(2008-12)



We're working with partners to keep children and young people in Derbyshire safe and well.

Derbyshire
**Safeguarding
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This information, and other advice, is available at

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Learning from serious case and incident reviews (2008-12)

Between 2008 and 2012 there have been a number of serious case and incident learning reviews.

The serious case reviews were:

- **ADS10** – two children died following a house fire in 2010
- **BDS10** – a child and its parents were found dead from stab wounds
- **ADS12** – a young person committed suicide while detained in a Young Offenders Institute
- **BDS12** – an infant died following ingestion of methadone.

The serious incident learning reviews were:

- **SILR 12A** – a child received serious head injuries causing a permanent disability
- **SILR 11A** – a child died following co-sleeping with its father
- **SILR 12B** – a child died as a result of a health condition, but there were concerns regarding multi-agency working
- **SILR 11C** – a young person was physically and sexually abused by her boyfriend over a long period of time.

These reviews have highlighted learning and themes that can help our work.

Babies are particularly at risk from abuse and neglect, including:

- shaking
- co-sleeping
- domestic abuse
- methadone used as a soother
- lack of ante-natal assessment.

Teenagers

A quarter of all serious case/serious incident learning reviews have been about the serious injury or death of a teenager. Issues include:

- suicide/self harm
- child sexual exploitation
- offending behaviour
- missing from school, home or care
- difficult to engage.

Parents

The death or serious injury of children and young people often has contributory factors:

- substance misuse
- mental health
- domestic abuse
- hostility/non-engagement
- disguised compliance
- dangerous men.

Messages for professionals

We can continue to improve our work through:

- information gathering, sharing and recording
- getting the whole picture of the child and family – including their history
- critically analysing all information
- prioritising a child's needs above those of its parents
- seeing a child on their own in their home, and where they sleep.